

HILLTOPICS

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Since 1965

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Saint Lawrence Seminary



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I Voted

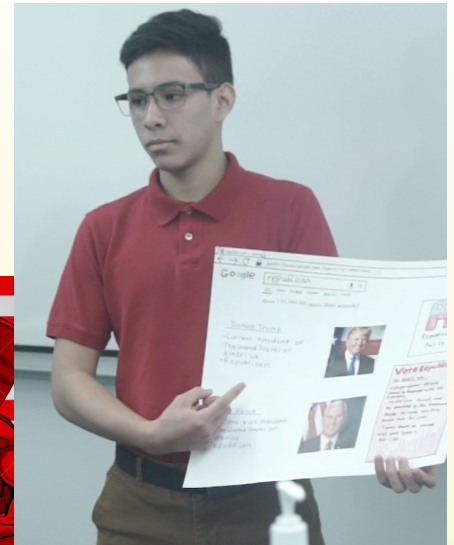
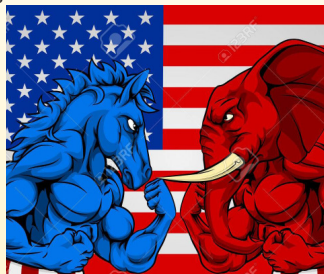
By: Thomas Nguyen

The November elections are a very important time for many people in America. Midterm elections take place every two years and it is crucial because voters have the opportunity to elect new members of both the state and national House of Representatives and Senate as well as new Governors.

At SLS, Mr. Tim Schultz teaches 10th grade Government. The Government class focuses learning on how the government operates and its purpose in society. Mr. Schultz teaches the class in such a way to help students understand and grasp the concepts of government. With many fun and engaging projects, students in his class work together to help each other interpret their understanding of government.

Mr. Schultz explained that "Midterm Elections are cycles that occur during the second year of a president's term." He showed students in his class *CNN 10* which helped students comprehend the purpose of the midterm elections and why it is important to vote. *CNN 10* is a daily news source that summarizes current events around the world. Jacob Cao stated, "I love *CNN 10*! I am definitely able to better understand the history of voting through it." Mr. Schultz emphasized in his class that voting is important because it is a strong way for citizens of the USA to show their opinions of government.

When all was said and done the state of Wisconsin re-elected Tammy Baldwin as senator, and elected Tony Evers for governor, and Steil, Pocan, Kind, Sensenbrenner, Grothman, Duffy, and Gallagher to the House of Representatives. Following the process allowed students to better understanding the midterm elections.



Rector's Corner

By: Fr. Zoy Garibay

Sharing Traditions

We are in the midst of a very exciting season—Advent! I have to say, this is one of my favorite seasons of the year because of the many traditions, the sights and sounds, and the feelings associated with it. Many countries around the world have particular traditions when it comes to Advent. In Germany and other German-speaking countries in Europe, for example, they have the *Adventskranz*—the setting up of an Advent wreath, around which the family would gather and light one candle on each Sunday of the season as they sing the *Weihnachtslieder*—the Christmas carols. In Mexico, they have the *Posadas*—the nine-day novena in which the people re-enact the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem as they search for a place to stay, where they will give birth to the child Jesus. In the Philippines, we have the *Simbang Gabi* (Sim-bəng Gə-bē)—a series of nine consecutive Masses which begins on the 16th and runs through the 24th of December. This tradition—introduced by the Spanish missionaries in the 17th century as a way to evangelize the people in the faith—is both time-honored and beloved.



Simbang Gabi is also known by its Spanish name, *Misa de Gallo* or “Mass of the Rooster.” During the colonial period, they were celebrated in the early hours of the morning—when the rooster crows—to accommodate the needs of the farmers, who begin their work in the fields before the sun appears. What makes *Simbang Gabi* different from other Masses celebrated during Advent is that the priest-celebrant wears a white vestment, the Gloria is chanted, the Creed is recited, and Christmas carols are sung. The Masses are treated like a solemnity—a feast of the highest order. The Catholic Church in the Philippines was granted a special indult by the Holy See to do these things to highlight the joyful mood apparent during the second-half of Advent. This is also a way for Filipino Catholics to express their popular religious devotion to the Lord and to the Blessed Mother.

.....
**As we enter more deeply into the Season
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.....

Simbang Gabi is a feast for the senses. Colored star lanterns called *parol*, which are usually made of Capiz shells and decorated with dancing lights, adorn the sanctuary. Church bells ring at the end of each Mass. As people exit the church after Mass, they are greeted with the sweet aroma of freshly-baked traditional delicacies offered in stands outside the church: *pan de sal* (salted bread), rice cakes with cheese topping, steamed purple sticky rice bars sprinkled with grated coconut, and sweet glutinous rice wrapped in banana leaves. People eat those goodies there or bring those home with them to be shared with their family or eaten at a later time.

The tradition of celebrating *Simbang Gabi* continues to this day, not only in the Philippines but also abroad—in countries where Filipino communities thrive. Here in the United States, *Simbang Gabi* is celebrated in the evening in order to accommodate the needs of parishioners who work during the day. Last year, we introduced *Simbang Gabi* to the community here at St. Lawrence Seminary. We are doing it again this year. As we enter more deeply into the Season of Advent, I invite you to revisit your native traditions and share those with your family. Like many Advent traditions, *Simbang Gabi* invites us—the faithful people of God—regardless of culture or nationality, to join together in joyful celebration as we await the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I wish you all—

**Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!
(Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!)**

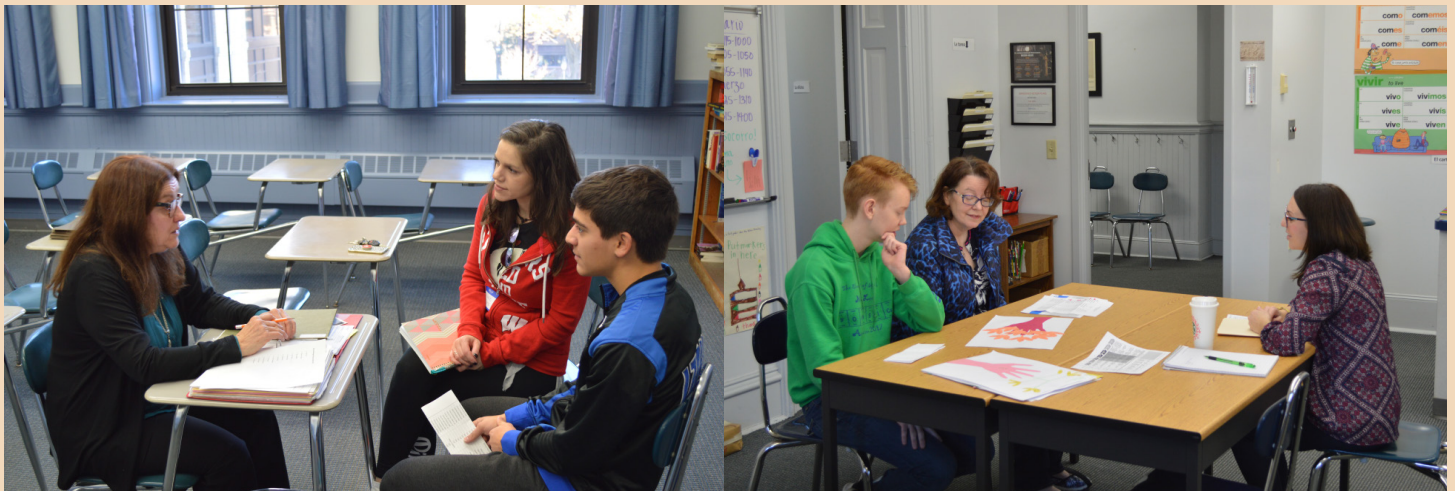
Parent Teacher Conferences

By: Ellison Juern

Every year teachers and parents alike eagerly await Parent Teacher conferences. This year conferences fell on November 3rd. Like most parents, the parents of SLS students were looking forward to knowing how their super-students were doing. Parents took this opportunity to meet with their son's teachers. Many parents received good reports on their son's academics as well as behavior. Conferences started at nine o'clock in the morning and continued in the afternoon after lunch. Parent Teacher conferences also gave the students the chance to spend time with their parents on and off the Hill.

Parent Teacher conferences gave parents and students an opportunity to meet with teachers to see how they were doing in all their classes. Students received a grade report and they also got to see in what areas they needed to improve. They were also given suggestions to assist in their improvement. The parents of sophomore Osvaldo Gonzalez said, "We are happy to see our son improving in classes and seeing what he struggles with." Overall, the parents were happy to hear about their son's academic efforts and spend some time with them.

Many of the parents who came to the Hill for conferences took their sons off campus for the afternoon. Senior Gerardo Aguirre said, "I went with my parents to see the movie *Night School* in Milwaukee." Not only did parents see movies with their sons, some parents took their sons off Hill to go out for lunch. Conferences were a great time for parents and students alike to see one another nearly halfway through the quarter and enjoy some quality time together.

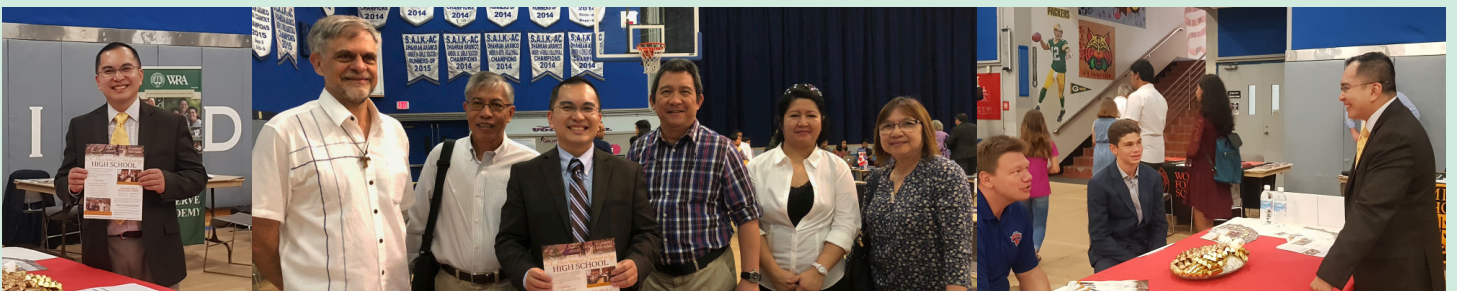


Searching for Hilltoppers – Saudi Arabia

By: Dominic Nguyen

In early November, Fr. Zoy embarked on a journey to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Unlike the freezing weather in Wisconsin, Saudi's weather was in the mid-to upper-seventies, making it extremely "tolerable," claimed Fr. Zoy. This was his third time visiting Saudi, but this time his main goal was to attend a Boarding School Fair to recruit potential candidates for the future of SLS. On his trip, Fr. Zoy met up with the parents of junior Claiemore Tango-an, and seniors Raynier Hurtado and Nathan De Leon. Furthermore, he encountered Mr. Tobias Beutgen, a former German exchange student at SLS in the 1990s. He also came to find out that the father of Mr. Beutgen was the headmaster of our sister school in Germany. In addition, Fr. Zoy met Fr. Jozef Timmers, ofm Cap. Fr. Zoy stayed with Fr. Timmers during his visit.

Saudi Arabia is predominantly a Muslim country. Knowing so, Masses and different religious acts were celebrated in a discrete manner. Fr. Zoy stated, "I was not sure how far I would be able to go with promoting St. Lawrence as a Catholic school, knowing clearly that I was in a Muslim community." However, Father Zoy successfully promoted the school with the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Tango-an, Hurtado, and De Leon. He stated that he was able to find many potential candidates who seemed interested in St. Lawrence, "Some may even be joining us next year." Fr. Zoy seemed to have a phenomenal time in Saudi, describing his trip as a complete success.



Bucks Conquer Kings

By: Peter Hall

Fear the Deer! The Milwaukee Bucks are here and this season it seems they are having one of the best starts in the league. The Bucks have truly been putting on a show for fans and on Sunday, November 4th, a group of SLS students were able to experience the spectacle. The game was played in the brand new, state-of-the-art Fiserv Forum, thought to be one of the best sports arenas in the world. Students were awed by both the stadium and the home team on the court as the Bucks did not disappoint. At times it seemed as if they couldn't miss a shot and when all was said and done, the Bucks had defeated the Sacramento Kings by a lopsided score of 144-109. Even more impressive, they set a new franchise record for three-pointers made in a game, raining down 22 of them. Giannis "The Greek Freak" Antetokounmpo put on a show as always, notching a triple-double with 26 points, 15 rebounds, and 11 assists. "The new stadium is amazing," commented senior Raynier Hurtado, "and it was so cool to be able to see the Bucks play in person!" It truly was a show for the ages.



Winter Sports

By: Robert Little

It's starting to get cold outside at St. Lawrence, and that means the winter sports seasons are beginning. At SLS there are two winter sports: basketball and wrestling. Both teams compete on the varsity and junior varsity levels. The seasons last from mid-to-late November through mid-February. This year the varsity wrestling coach is Mr. Phil McCabe, and the varsity basketball coaches are Mr. Chad Dowland (head) and Mr. Noel Sippel (assistant). The coaches have selected a few goals that they would like their teams to reach and hopefully surpass.

In wrestling, Coach McCabe sets three main goals every season, to win against one team in conference, have two or more wrestlers go to regionals, and to have one of his wrestlers go to state and compete for the state title. He believes that these goals can be accomplished through hard work and dedication, throughout the wintry season.

In basketball, Coach Dowland has set a different line of goals in which he wishes to succeed. His goals include having the hardest working group of boys on and off the court. He believes that through hard work the team can be successful. His second goal is to help the SLS basketball program gain some recognition throughout the area. And his third goal is to have the players grow in maturity, responsibility, dedication and respect on and off the court. Coach Dowland concluded, "If we can engrain all these aspects into the boys, they will become men on and off the court."

This season the wrestling team will be competing in the Flyway conference, while basketball will be independent. Be sure to come out and show your Hilltopper pride throughout the 2018-2019 winter sport season.



One Bingo Chip at a Time

By: Claiemore Tango-an

Saint Lawrence Seminary provides students various ministry opportunities, and every opportunity gives the students a chance to showcase their social skills, respect for others and reverence. Ministry opportunities encourage students to interact with their community and ministry at the Villa does just that.

The Villa Loretto is a nursing home in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. The students of SLS visit the nursing home just down the road from campus, every Saturday. This ministry allows the students to play bingo with the elderly residents, and to help provide other support services. Ministering at the Villa Loretto gives SLS students the opportunity to assist the elderly with their youthful energy. They socialize and build relationships with the residents through their strong guidance and interaction. Throughout the years, SLS has built a relationship with the Sisters of Christ the King who staff the Villa, and more importantly the students of SLS have built a bond with the elderly residents who live there.

The students sit with elderly residents and play bingo. They assist the residents and keep them company as they play the game. The residents are grateful to the students for coming to spend time with them and sharing stories. Spending time at the Villa doesn't just give the students of SLS a chance to interact with the elderly, it gives them the opportunity to share their experiences and learn what growing old entails. It also gives the student an opportunity to relate to others around them, to reflect on themselves and the experiences they have acquired. Visiting the Villa Loretto also allows students an opportunity to recognize whether they would like to visit a nursing home near their home, to build relationships with the residents who live there. Sophomore Aaryan Studden said, "Some of them are really kind and some of them just sleep. It's a great experience for us. It helps us respect the senior citizens."

During this ministry, the students work hard to encourage, help and provide service to the elderly residents living at the nursing home. There are many students who attend this ministry and have formed a relationship with one of the residents there. The students get to know and learn about their wise experiences and memories they have collected over the years. The bond in which they earn by supporting the elderly is something that both students and residents treasure.

Ministry is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the community they live in. It teaches the students of Saint Lawrence Seminary to respect everyone, even those not born in the same generation as them, to know that they still deserve respect as all God's creation.



A Day to Remember Souls and Saints

By: Nicholas Rodriguez

On the 1st of November the entire community of Saint Lawrence celebrated All Saints Day. This day is especially important to all Catholics because it is one of the few times of the year where a prayer service is completely devoted to all the saints of the Catholic Church. Father Muthu said, “This day is especially important because we call upon all the saints that came before us to pray for not only our needs, but also the needs of others.” SLS celebrated this holy day in order to receive the blessings and prayers from the saints to help out with problems. Lastly, it is a reminder that those in heaven are helping us all to become more like Jesus.

The following day, the student body and a few staff members observed All Souls Day. Prior to this day, students and staff members were able to write the names of loved ones and anyone they knew who needed prayers into the Book of the Dead. Then on All Souls Day, the students gathered in the chapel to pray for these names in an extraordinary way. During this prayer service, the students and staff had their loved ones’ name called. Then they placed a candle into a box of sand. The action of putting the candle into the sand symbolized that the person or persons are living with God in His Kingdom. Then the names were prayed for by the entire student body and many of the staff members. Junior Jeongbin Lee said, “This is a very deep and emotional day.” Many people found this day to be a marvelous one to commemorate loved ones who have died.



St. Nick Comes Again

By: Aaron Tarpinian

Every December 6th the Catholic Church celebrates the life of St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas is well-known for his generosity, compassion, and kindness to all people, especially the poor. He is the patron saint of multiple classes of people, particularly sailors in the east and children in the west. The most well-known St. Nicholas legend is about a poor man with three daughters. In the old days, a woman’s father must offer a possible husband something of value, a dowry, to marry his daughter. Without a dowry, a young woman would have less of a chance to be married and more of a chance to be sold into slavery. On three separate occasions, the poor man found bags of gold resting in stockings or shoes. This event is what led to the tradition of people putting out their shoes or hanging stockings overnight, waiting to find treasures from St. Nicholas.

Like many others around the world, the students at St. Lawrence celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas. Late at night on November 5th the seniors deliver bags of candy to the rest of the student body, while they are sleeping. Delivering the candy to their freshmen was a memorable experience for the seniors. Senior Pedro Fernandez said, “It was fun to experience that feeling my senior did when he delivered the treats to me as a freshman.” The next morning when the other classes woke up to find delicious treats waiting for them, freshman Lance Do stated, “At first I thought it was the dorm supervisors who delivered the gifts, but once I found out it was our seniors, that made it more meaningful.” This feast day has now been part of the St. Lawrence tradition for over 40 years and will hopefully continue to bring joy to the St. Lawrence community.



Open Your Hearts & Let Me In

By: Khang Chau

Throughout its history, strengthening a young man's faith and the bonds with their classmates has always been one of SLS's missions. In order to accomplish this, the faculty and staff members have developed an annual retreat program for the student body that takes place each November. This spiritual program offered at SLS allows the students to step back from their academic obligations for a few days in order to self-reflect. The retreat program is different for each of the grades. Among the students, the retreat experiences are well-received, for it offers precious time to communicate with God and with peers. The 2018 retreat program was no exception.

Prayer is an essential part of our faith. As our relationships with God are built upon prayers, the theme for the freshmen retreat was "Prayer." Staff members were appointed to mediate the freshman retreat, they were Mr. Lou, Sr. Patrice, Mr. Anthony Van Asten, Mrs. Jenny Tabbert, Mrs. Katie Daane, and Ms. Jamie Stephanie. These staff members assisted the students through a series of activities that were aimed to give the students a better understanding of the power of prayer. Mr. Van Asten led a "nature walk"; Ms. Stephanie supervised "imaginary prayers", in which they meditated using music and imagined an encounter with Jesus Christ. Mrs. Daane and Mrs. Tabbert partnered in helping the students to pray with "Mandalas" - pattern-filled circles that carry a special meaning to the artists who made them. Freshman Gabriel Ocampo remarked, "I honestly enjoyed the time next to my peers. We got to build a better connection with each other and with God."

The sophomore retreat, led by SPIRITUS, a group who specializes in hosting youth retreats, focused on "forgiveness." The sophomores attended six lectures regarding the importance of seeking God's help in relationships, being happy with God, the power of forgiveness, and working together in God's assistance. In two days' time, Mr. Jeffrey Kreig, Mr. Jose Liborio, Mrs. Miriam Liborio, and the dormitory prefects offered supervision to the class. For many sophomores, the most memorable event was "Out of the Maze", in which teamwork and trust were required for the blindfolded participants to escape a maze. Sophomore Angel Pagan commented, "It was a nice experience to bond with my SLS brothers. I feel like the connection between God and me is much deeper now."

As upperclassmen, the juniors were ecstatic to leave campus for Mt. Morris, a premier camp, retreat, and conference center in



Wautoma, WI. There they were divided into six groups; each stayed in a different cabin and spent the retreat together. Throughout many activities, such as the "Captain" game, the alternative skits, and the "candle" talk, the juniors had a chance to extend their understanding of each other, as well as acknowledging the "Ruah," the breath of the Holy Spirit existing in each of them. Dr. Rick Voell, host of the junior retreat, was enthusiastic to see such an active and faithful class. Junior John-Paul Allan, a new member of the class, said, "I realized that God had always been there for me and for my brothers. Through the Holy Spirit, God accomplished such wondrous things."

The senior class retreat focused on "vocation." They, too, went off Hill to St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon City, WI. With the help of Fr. Thien Dinh, the guest speaker from the Capuchin Order, and the perfect example of Mother Teresa shown through the movie they watched, the seniors understood vocations much deeper and more vividly. To foster the seniors in this gradual process, Br. Mitchell Franz and Fr. Biju Varghese joined them in a drawing activity, in which self-portraits were made to represent different facets of the seniors' lives. Senior Daniel Reyes was grateful for the opportunity: "The retreat was a wonderful break for my classmates and I, one in which I could pray much easier and more thoughtfully than ever."

Upon returning to the Hill, students engaged in discussions regarding their retreat experiences. After all, the time spent with brothers and God, reflecting on life and where it might lead, is never time wasted.



A Taste of Capuchin Life

By: Isaac Villegas

Annually, St. Lawrence Seminary sends a few members of the senior class to visit St. Clare Friary and St. Joseph Seminary in Chicago. The goal of the trip is to guide the seniors, who may be interested in the programs offered by the Capuchins and the seminary. This year, there were six seniors who took the trip. The seniors left class on Thursday afternoon and arrived at St. Joseph Seminary, Loyola University, later that afternoon. After attending evening prayer at the seminary, the students shared dinner and took a tour of Loyola's campus. The rest of the night was spent mingling amongst the seminarians and getting to know them while playing pool.

On Friday, the seniors attended Mass and shadowed a few seminarians as they went to their classes. Later in the day, they went to St. Clare's Friary to spend a night with the Capuchins. There they were given a talk about how the Capuchin College Program works and which colleges were available in the city of Chicago. For those who aren't familiar with the college program, it is a program that allows college students who are interested in joining the Capuchin Franciscan Order to live amongst the friars and see what their everyday lives entail. The seniors listened to SLS alumnus, Mark Vargas (Class of 2018), speak about his decision to partake in the Capuchin College Program after graduation last year. After evening prayer and dinner with the Capuchins, the seniors were treated to some dessert in downtown Chicago and watched a few movies together at night. Senior, Michael Nguyen said, "I really enjoyed the experience and seeing what it was like to be a college seminarian for a day." The students seemed to agree that the experience was very interesting and worth their time as they continued to discern God's call to them.



Urban Plunge

By: Carlos Nunez

Attending St. Lawrence Seminary High School and living in Mount Calvary, can take a student out of his everyday norm of city life and forget the struggles of city living. Each year, SLS provides a ministry opportunity to the senior class called the Milwaukee Experience. This opportunity allows a group of students, along with a couple chaperones, to leave the Hill for an overnight stay in Milwaukee. Friday evening, the first stop is St. Benedict's Community Meal, where the students eat and mingle with people who have come upon hardships in life. At St. Ben's the students have a home-cooked meal with the homeless people who are served. After sharing a meal with the homeless, the students talk with some of the guests, who explain how they fell on hard times. The speakers motivate the students to not follow in their footsteps. After the talk, the seniors are then taken to a play at The Rep or the Next Act Theatre. For the overnight, the groups stay at St. Francis Friary. Saturday morning the students visit The Guest House. The Guest House is an organization on the north side of Milwaukee that provides shelter, food, and a family environment to people who are homeless. The experience to witness an everyday problem in cities like Milwaukee shed a different light and change perspectives for many of the seniors. Senior Gerardo Aguirre said, "Being from Milwaukee, I always saw and heard about the issue of poverty and homelessness. But going on this visit really changed my mind on how to see it."



The Keeper of Keys

By: Benjamin Bartlett

Every day from 7:15 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Mrs. Schmitz works tirelessly to ensure that the school runs smoothly and that the lives of students and staff members are easier. She primarily acts as the secretary to the Rector, Father Zoy Garibay, answering to his needs and helping with his daily schedule. She can pretty much answer any question one has about the school. In a sense, she is in charge of all the day-to-day activities that go on behind the scenes, such as answering the phones for the school during its business hours, taking messages, publishing schedules for staff and students, taking minutes at meetings, and providing general information whenever needed.

Her list of duties involving students include housing their passports, sending out report cards and speaking with parents about their concerns or answering general questions they may have. Another important task she is in charge of is the Welcome Center staffing. She trains staff members and the Welcome Center work crew on how to answer phones and take messages. Whenever a person calls the school, they go through the Welcome Center switchboard. Aside from training people to man the Welcome Center lobby, she also works her own shifts there.

Mrs. Schmitz is the wonder worker many don't appreciate enough, assisting in the day-to-day happenings with few noticing. She is an important piece in organizing the structure of the school. Without her hard work, many would be confused by the A.M. Meeting Schedule or a Late Start Schedule. The calendar of the weeks to come wouldn't be maintained. All in all, Mrs. Schmitz is the St. Peter of St. Lawrence, in charge of everyone while not having supreme authority. She has the keys and the answers to most questions that anyone might have in conjunction with the school. Without her experience, the school would have difficulty functioning as well as it does.



Student Spotlight

By: Aaron Villegas



Yair Rivera
Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Grade: Freshman
Age: 14
Hobbies: Watching Netflix, playing soccer, and bodybuilding.
Favorite food: Tacos de pastor
What brought him to SLS?: “My mom’s boss’s son told us about this school and my mom suggested me to come here.”

Thomas Thien Nguyen
Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Grade: Sophomore
Age: 15
Hobbies: Playing video games, swimming, and hanging out with friends.
Favorite food: Pho
What brought him to SLS?: “It was recommended by an alumnus, my family and I were interested in this school.”



Kiet Tran
Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Grade: Sophomore
Age: 15
Hobbies: Reading books, watching anime, and playing *League of Legends*.
Favorite food: Broken Rice
What brought him to SLS?: “My father told me I was coming here.”

Solomon Wagner
Hometown: St. Peter, Wisconsin
Grade: Sophomore
Age: 15
Hobbies: Playing guitar, and studying
Favorite food: Orange Chicken
What brought him to SLS?: “I came because I wanted a good education and spiritual life.”



Fresh Faculty Faces

Mr. Dean Beckman - Custodial Staff

What brought you to SLS? “I originally started out as a temporary employee but decided to take on the full-time job.”

What do you like most about this school? “The positive atmosphere.”

How are you adapting? “Really good! People are always willing to help me out so that’s great!”



Mr. Dennis Rieder - Custodial Staff

What brought you to SLS? “I was looking for a different opportunity for my later years. I was done with my old job. I found out about this school from a friend.”

What do you like most about this school? “How polite everyone is and the benefits of working here.”

How are you adapting? “I’m doing great. My supervisors are great and everyone is so helpful.”

Hilltopics
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From The Editors

PETER

I can't believe I'm halfway done with my senior year already. Time really does fly when you're having fun! As Christmas closes in upon us, I can't help but look forward to the break that accompanies it. Don't get me wrong, I love my life here at SLS, but everyone needs a break once in a while. Looking back on the first semester, I see that I have already created memories with my fellow classmates that are sure to last a lifetime. I can't wait to come back after Christmas, rested and recharged, to work hard and make even more memories. I hope that you all enjoyed this issue and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



ISAAC

Boy how the time flies! The first semester was a very memorable one. I have really enjoyed what I have done this school year so far, especially Basketball and not to forget Hilltopics, along with school. I have made so many new memories with my brothers here at St. Lawrence this semester, and hopefully, there will be more to come. Looking forward, there is still another semester in front of me, along with three more issues of Hilltopics, but I will definitely enjoy the extended Christmas break. After all, it is a time for celebration! I hope that everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!